



*Image* 1763  
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PATENT  
Customer Number 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08038.0043

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Yasuo KOBAYASHI et al. )  
)  
Application Serial No. 09/667,768 ) Group Art Unit: 1763  
)  
Filed: September 22, 2000 ) Examiner: Moore, K.  
)  
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS AND )  
PROCESSING METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003, the period for response having been extended by one month with a Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins at page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.